Achievement of WTO objectives at Doha

†4457. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have achieved the prime objectives of the draft Doha agreement of World Trade Organisation of August, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many differences between the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Commerce have arisen about the number of products to be kept in the category of special products, for providing protection to agro products against import on cheaper rates under the Agreement on Agriculture of World Trade Organisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The negotiating mandate agreed by consensus of all WTO Members, including India, is contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14 November 2001, as elaborated and complemented by the General Council Decision of 1 August 2004 (the "Framework") and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of 18 December 2005.

In the elements and principles agreed thus far India has been able to secure recognition that agriculture is of critical importance to the economic development of developing country Members and that they must be able to pursue agricultural policies that are supportive of their development goals, poverty reduction strategies, food security and livelihood concerns. Accordingly, some elements of special and differential treatment for developing countries have already been agreed, including the right to self-designate an appropriate number of Special Products (SPs) for more flexible treatment, and a Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) which would be designed to address surges in imports and international price declines. In domestic support, it has been agreed that developing countries like India will be exempted from any reduction in the trade-distorting domestic support provided to its farmers. It has also been agreed that developing countries like India could continue to provide marketing and transport subsidies on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

exports for a further period of five years beyond the elimination of all forms of export subsidies by WTO Members.

The Framework reaffirms the importance of special and differential treatment in non-agricultural market access (NAMA) and these negotiations will aim at reduction or as appropriate elimination of tariffs including tariff peaks, high tariff peaks and tariff escalations in particular in products of export interest to developing countries, as well as non-tariff barriers. The bound tariff reduction commitments of developing countries will be based on the principle of 'less than full reciprocity' as compared to those of the developed countries. Flexibilities to address the senstivities of developing countries will be developed further in the negotiations.

(c) and (d) The agricultural products to be self-designated as Special Products by developing countries, including India, would be based upon the negotiated outcome of the Doha Work Programme, which will establish the modalities including indicators to guide the self-designation of an appropriate number of tariff lines as Special Products based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development. The question of differences between the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and the Department of Commerce, therefore, does not arise.

Global Index of Physical and Intellectual Property Rights

4458. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China are tied up at Rank 39 in the recently released Global Index of Physical and Intellectual Property Rights, brought out by the Washington-based Property Rights Alliance;

(b) whether the top 25 per cent of the 70 countries surveyed enjoyed per capita GDP eight times more than that of bottom 25 percent of the rankings, establishing a correlation between property rights and GDP; and

(c) whether the ranking parameters chosen include judicial independence, political stability, corruption and extent of legal protection given for intellectual and physical property rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) In the International Property